

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2005
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Larry Hudkins, Chair
Deb Schorr, Vice Chair
Bernie Heier
Bob Workman
Ray Stevens

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Bruce Medcalf, Lancaster County Clerk
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2005 AND DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2005 AND TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2005

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes dated June 2, 2005 and Departmental Budget Hearing minutes dated May 26, 2005 and May 31, 2005. Heier, Schorr, Stevens, Hudkins and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Printer Special Pricing
- B. Corn Maze
- C. Presentation on Downtown Master Plan
- D. Hastings Regional Center
- E. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Report
- F. County Seal

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Stevens, Schorr, Heier, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

3 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant; Amy Prenda, Director of Legal Research and Analysis for Kissel/E&S Associates

Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant, reviewed Lancaster County priorities for 2005 (Exhibit A).

Hudkins inquired about the likelihood of getting legislation through to increase the fuel tax.

Kissel said the Legislature is not interested in raising taxes at this time.

Hudkins said it may be beneficial to present data showing how much traffic moves through Nebraska and asked Kissel to access the findings of the Transportation for Nebraska's Future Task Force.

Schorr said legislation is needed to standardize General Assistance (GA) programs or to moved administration to the State.

Hudkins asked what the Board can do to get the Clerk of the District Court moved to the State.

Kissel said it is Senator Beutler's top priority and said he plans to talk to Lancaster, Douglas and Sarpy County over the summer to see if it will fit with the jail reimbursement issue.

Hudkins suggested that the Board meet with the Lancaster County Senate delegation in July or August.

Kissel recommended that the Tri-County meeting be moved forward in the schedule to better plan legislative strategy.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

D. Hastings Regional Center

Hudkins suggested exploration of utilizing the Hastings Regional Center as a regional correctional facility.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

D. Budget Document Revisions

Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, appeared and presented examples of public budget documents produced by LIFE (Lancaster Integrated Financial Enterprise), the new accounting system (see agenda packet). He noted that a third year of actuals was dropped, as it is no longer legally required.

Stevens asked for an additional column to show the 2003/2004 budget.

Kroeker said he can do so, but said the information is readily available in the budget book.

Board consensus was to accept the new format.

**4 REQUEST FOR LAPTOP COMPUTER FROM PUBLIC DEFENDER -
Dennis Keefe, Public Defender**

Dennis Keefe, Public Defender, requested authorization to purchase a laptop computer and related software from the Microcomputer Fund (\$2,713.69). He said his office occasionally needs to search Internet sites during case preparation that are blocked by Information Services and said the laptop computer will have wireless capabilities to provide that Internet access. It will also be used to develop courtroom presentations and to display video and audio clips to witnesses at depositions, hearings and trials.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded approval of the request, stipulating that Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, will determine whether funding should be from the Microcomputer Fund, the Public Defender's budget or a combination of both, and will report back to the Board if funds are not sufficient in those two areas. Stevens, Schorr, Heier, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

5 COUNTY SPECIAL PERMIT NO. 05025, TEMPORARY RESIDENT (TRAILER), NORTHWEST 112TH AND WEST FLETCHER ROAD; COUNTY CHANGE OF ZONE NO. 05032 (AGRICULTURAL (AG) DISTRICT TO AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL (AGR) DISTRICT), SOUTHWEST 56TH STREET AND WEST DENTON ROAD - Mike DeKalb, Planning Department

Special Permit No. 05025

Mike DeKalb, Planning Department, gave an overview of County Special Permit No. 05025, a request from Roger and Lynn Engelbart for authority to reside in a mobile home (temporary residence) while building a permanent residence on property at Northwest 112th Street and West Fletcher Road (Exhibit B). Planning Staff and the Planning Commission have recommended conditional approval.

In response to a question from Heier, DeKalb said removal of the mobile home is a condition of the special permit. He said Building and Safety will verify that it has been removed at the time the occupancy permit is issued for the house.

Change of Zone No. 05032

DeKalb gave an overview of County Change of Zone No.05032, a request from Valerie B. Harris for a change of zone from Agricultural (AG) District to Agricultural Residential (AGR) District on property on the southeast corner of Southwest 56th Street and West Denton Road (Exhibit C). The purpose of the request is to allow the property owner to request a special permit for a kennel. Planning Staff recommended approval of the request as it will bring the zoning into harmony with the existing lot. The Planning Commission recommended denial on a vote of 6 to 2.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

B. Corn Maze

DeKalb reported a request from Wayne Benson to have a 22 acre corn maze promoting Lincoln Saltdogs Baseball four to six days a week, for eight weeks, on his property on South 140th Street and West Denton Road (see diagram in Exhibit D). Admission will be charged for the event, with a large attendance anticipated. He noted that Benson is seeking a Guinness World Record for the largest maze. DeKalb said there are three ways of handling the request: 1) Special permit for a recreation facility; 2) Special permit for a heritage center; or 3) Special events permit. He said a special permit would require public hearings before the Planning Commission and County Board and would run with the land.

Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk, said an amusement license may be required if Benson plans to serve a combination of food and drink.

Board consensus was to allow Benson to proceed with an application for a special events permit, but indicate that he will need a special permit if he plans to hold the event again.

6 HICKMAN AREA ROAD PROJECTS; RURAL-TO-URBAN TRANSITION STREETS (R.U.T.S.) PROGRAM FUNDING - Don Thomas, County Engineer

Don Thomas, County Engineer, gave an overview of projects proposed for the next five years in the Hickman area (see map in Exhibit E), noting that the work is related to reconstruction of South 68th Street and the Hickman viaduct.

Thomas pointed out that annexation of development north of Hickman is imminent, which will move the Hickman city limits .5 mile north of the Hickman Road. He said he needs an indication from Hickman as to whether it wants to participate in the County's project (a rural, two-lane roadway, widened with paved shoulders) and carry it down to the Hickman Road and participate in the local share of the portion inside the city limits. Hickman could then proceed with urban paving from the Hickman Road towards the viaduct. Thomas said he would propose that Hickman be allowed to use federal funds for that project, but said the County would not participate in the local share.

Schorr agreed to set up a meeting with Hickman.

Workman and Hudkins expressed concern that these projects may delay work on North 162nd Street.

Rural-to-Urban Transition Streets (R.U.T.S.) Program Funding

Thomas expressed concern that the City Council is not as committed as the County Board to funding of the East Beltway and the R.U.T.S. Program.

Hudkins said the City Council is looking at increasing the wheel tax as a funding mechanism for the R.U.T.S. Program. An increase of \$6 in the City would raise approximately \$1.3 million. Instituting a county wheel tax, at the current rate with a farm vehicle exemption, would raise another \$1.3 million.

Thomas said, of the two, funding of the beltway is the most critical.

Heier said the beltway route needs to be defined, rather than the corridor.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Workman seconded to send a letter to Mayor Seng and the City Council outlining the County Board's willingness to institute a county wheel tax to raise funds for the East Beltway corridor right-of-way acquisition and requesting City participation in an equal amount, with a July 1, 2005 deadline for response.

Stevens recommended moving forward with the Joint Public Agency (JPA) agreement, which spells out East Beltway corridor protection and the R.U.T.S. Program.

The maker of the motion and the seconded agreed to amend their motion to 1) Include the suggestion that the City and County move forward with the Joint Public Agency (JPA) agreement ; 2) Indicate that the City and County will need to raise funds on a nearly equal basis; and 3) Direct Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, to draft the letter for Board review.

ROLL CALL: Workman, Schorr, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Heier abstained from voting, due to a conflict of interest. Motion carried.

7 LABOR NEGOTIATIONS - Don Taute, Personnel Director; John Cripe, Classification and Pay Manager; Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney

MOTION: Schorr moved and Heier seconded to enter Executive Session at 10:05 a.m. for discussion of labor negotiations. Heier, Workman, Schorr, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Workman moved and Stevens seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:36 a.m. Workman, Heier, Schorr, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

8 POTENTIAL AND PENDING LITIGATION - Doug Cyr, Chief Administrative Deputy County Attorney; Kristy Mundt and Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorneys

MOTION: Workman moved and Schorr seconded to enter Executive Session at 10:36 a.m. for discussion of potential and pending litigation. Schorr, Stevens, Workman, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded to exit Executive Session at 11:00 a.m. Stevens, Schorr, Heier, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

9 ACTION ITEMS

A. Letter of Support for South Beltway

The Board asked Eagan to make minor revisions to the letter (Exhibit F).

B. Microcomputer Request C#2005-193, \$2,457.50 from County Extension Budget for a Laptop Computer

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded approval of the request. Stevens, Schorr, Heier, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

C. Open House for County Vehicle Storage Facility

Board consensus was to schedule the open house at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2005 and to move budget discussions forward to 8:00 a.m. on that date.

10 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Siren on Raymond Substation

MOTION: Workman moved and Schorr seconded approval. Workman, Heier, Stevens, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Claims for Review from Families First & Foremost (F³)

1. Payment voucher for attendance of Cornhusker Council Boy Scouts of America activities during the period of June 7, 2004 through August 13, 2004, with claim in the amount of \$355. Service was authorized for payment to Robin Townsend by F³ in November, 2004. Claim is beyond the 90 day time period (see State Statute 23-135).

Robin Townsend, claimant, appeared and presented documentation showing that the claim was initially submitted to the caseworker on September 30, 2004 (Exhibit G).

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded to handle the claim through the regular claims process at the Tuesday, June 14, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting. Stevens, Schorr, Workman, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

2. Payment voucher is for individual therapy provided January 27, 2005 in the amount of \$56.21. Service was authorized by F³ in December, 2004. Claim is beyond the 90 day time period (see State Statute 23-135).

MOTION: Workman moved and Schorr seconded to handle the claim through the regular claims process at the Tuesday, June 14, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting. Workman, Heier, Schorr, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

C. Cheney Community Improvement Program (CIP) Website

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, reported a request to include the Cheney CIP on the County's website.

Board consensus was to approve the request.

D. Budget Document Revisions

Item moved forward on the agenda.

E. Grandfathered County Craftsmen Licenses

Thorpe said the Building and Safety Department has received two additional requests for "grandfathered" county craftsmen licenses. The Board had initially indicated that applications should be submitted by March 1, 2005.

Board consensus was to authorize the Building and Safety Department to work with those individuals.

F. Future Sale of Lancaster County Agricultural Society Property

The Board reviewed a draft of a letter to Marvin Krout, Planning Director, asking that analysis of Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 05011 (change of zone on the Lancaster County Agricultural Society's property on North 84th Street and Havelock Avenue) be based on the merits of the proposal, not on speculation as to whether the land will be sold (Exhibit H).

MOTION: Heier moved and Schorr seconded to send the letter, with signature by the Chair.

Brief discussion followed with a request that the first sentence of the second paragraph be reworded as follows:

The majority of the County Board of Commissioners believes the possible future sale of the property by the Agricultural Society is not relevant to the issue of how the property should be designated under the Comprehensive Plan.

ROLL CALL: Heier, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Workman and Stevens voted no. Motion carried.

- G. Correspondence from State Fair Regarding Lancaster Building
- H. Surplus Property at Northwest 27th Street and Highway 34 and 1931 North 57th Street

Items G and H were addressed during the afternoon Departmental Budget Hearings session.

11 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- A. Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee - Stevens
- B. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) Investors - Hudkins
- C. General Assistance (GA) Monitoring Committee - Stevens, Schorr

Items A-C were addressed during the afternoon Departmental Budget Hearings session.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Items A, C, E and F were addressed during the afternoon Departmental Budget Hearings session.

12 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Workman seconded to recess the meeting at 11:23 a.m. and to cover the remaining items during the afternoon Departmental Budget Hearings session. Workman, Heier, Schorr, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk